

City Council

Special Meeting Minutes

**April 28, 2020
Electronic Meeting
6:00 PM**

Call to Order – Mayor Stolzmann called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and the following members were present:

City Council: ***Mayor Ashley Stolzmann***
 Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Maloney
 Councilmember Kyle Brown
 Councilmember J. Caleb Dickinson
 Councilmember Deborah Fahey
 Councilmember Chris Leh
 Councilmember Jeff Lipton

Staff Present: ***Heather Balser, City Manager***
 Megan Davis, Deputy City Manager
 Kevin Watson, Finance Director
 Nathan Mosely, Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Director
 Kurt Kowar, Public Works Director
 Rob Zuccaro, Planning & Building Safety Director
 Sharon Nemechek, Library Director
 Dave Hayes, Police Chief
 Megan Pierce, Economic Vitality Director
 Kathleen Hix, Human Resources Director
 Meredyth Muth, City Clerk

Others Present: ***Kathleen Kelly, City Attorney***

Mayor Stolzmann noted that because of the COVID-19 emergency the meeting is being held electronically. She gave information on how the meeting process will work and directions for those dialing in on how to participate when it is time for public comments.

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION – REOPENING AND RECOVERY PLANS FOR CITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

City Manager Balser noted Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) has extended the Stay at Home order until May 8th meaning the City is under those same regulations until that time. She noted the State and Boulder County are saying that the reopening of businesses will happen gradually paying close attention to public health risks. After May 8

Boulder County will move into the Safer at Home phase. During that phase certain businesses and services will reopen, with protective measures in place. At this time, the duration of the Safer at Home order is unknown.

Due to the ongoing need for an active and consistent public health response to the disease, which includes accessible testing, case detection, and containment, as well as social distancing and other public safety measures, the City is approaching full reopening cautiously. Staff is using these principals for reopening:

- The health, safety, and well-being of our employees and the residents of the City of Louisville are our top priority throughout reopening and recovery.
- The City will work to support the economic health of our residents, businesses and our organization through the process of recovery.
- The City will approach facility reopening carefully and with caution, evaluating the risks and rewards associated with each step toward recovery.
- The City commits to working collaboratively with our partners and supports alignment in our recovery efforts.
- The City will only move forward with reopening efforts if they are in compliance with state and county health guidelines.
- The City will remain flexible and nimble in planning and implementing recovery efforts, recognizing the pandemic response is dynamic and rapidly changing.
- Community engagement and response will be integral to the City's recovery process.

The City is drafting a phased reopening plan, guided by these principles and the City's disaster recovery plan, and is seeking Council input on several areas where clear state and local direction have not yet been provided. It's important to note that the City has been operating throughout the COVID-19 pandemic closures, with many operations occurring remotely. This remote work will continue at a level of at least 50% or likely greater.

At this time, the City anticipates we will be able to restore some limited services after expiration of the Stay at Home order, and over the course of the Safer at Home phase. The reopening will be staggered and certain services will begin before others. Upon reopening, the services will look different and will not be delivered in the same fashion as they have been in the past.

Phased reopening will include the following approaches that reflect CDPHE and BCPH guidance to support the safety of our patrons and staff:

- Limited hours of service
- Some services by appointment only
- Reduced staff/resources on-site due to work at home and phased on-site staffing
- Curbside pick-up and other low-touch services
- Limited numbers in building, limited group/gathering size

- Public safety measures including sanitization/cleaning, masking of staff and patrons, temperature monitoring of staff and patrons, etc.
- Social distancing at 6 feet, supported by floor markings and physical barriers

We are awaiting additional public health guidance and there may be other factors and accommodations to be made. Assuming we have the infrastructure to meet the public health requirements, facilities may begin opening in late May or early June. Other municipalities along the Front Range are working on the same timeframe. Staff is also looking at the financial impact of this process.

Staff has provided an initial plan for reopening major facilities but is seeking feedback from Council on some specific facilities including Memory Square Pool and dog parks.

Deputy City Manager Davis added that the reopening plan will include a robust communication strategy. The City will provide updates regarding restored services, hours of operation and all public health safety information on its webpage and through community announcements and e-notifications.

Public Comments

Julian Suarez, 921 Garfield Avenue, recommended the City consider a temporary closure of Main Street to allow restaurants to spread out to run at greater capacity and be compliant with distancing requirements.

Mayor Stolzmann asked Council to start the discussion around the principals.

Councilmember Leh suggested adding the word “robust” to the final principal; looking for robust engagement.

Mayor Pro Tem Maloney asked if the principals are guided by the Health Department. City Manager Balser stated the City is taking guidance from BCPH on all aspects of reopening.

Councilmember Dickinson noted the City is doing it the right way which is to follow the guidance of the Health Department and doing it consistently with our neighbors. Councilmember Fahey agreed we need to be consistent with the rest of the County.

Members accepted the principals with the one change to add robust as suggested.

Memory Square Pool

Mayor Stolzmann stated that the question about Memory Square Pool is with group size still limited to 10 people and with what we expect for social distancing requirements: is it reasonable to expect to open the pool this summer?

Councilmember Dickinson agreed with the staff recommendation to not open the pool this summer. Councilmember Fahey agreed the logistics required to open and the staff needed would make opening prohibitive.

Councilmember Leh stated he wished there were a way to allow the Dolphin Swim Team the ability to use the facility.

Mayor Stolzmann stated that beyond the safety issues, the cost involved in opening the pool presents issues. We already operate the pool at a loss and to open for an even shorter amount of time would be very costly at a time we have declining revenues. Even if the swim team could practice safely it would be very expensive for the City to offer this.

Mayor Stolzmann stated there will need to be good communication around this so the community understands why we are doing this.

Councilmember Lipton stated he would like to keep open the possibility that it might be open for a portion of the year if it is safe and financially possible.

Mayor Stolzmann reminded Council that staff is already been cut with the recent furloughs and it will be difficult to open the pool for any limited amount of time this year. If we leave this option open it will create more work for staff to have to prepare for the possibility.

Members agreed to wait for County guidance and if opening the pool is allowed then staff can do a financial feasibility study to see if we can open it this year.

Dog Parks

Councilmember Lipton stated there is a great interest in this for our residents, but we will have to wait and see if the State and County can give us guidance on the number of people that can gather. When we get guidance that allows opening we can reconsider.

Councilmember Dickinson disagreed stating he would like to consider reopening with social distancing.

Without specific guidance on dog parks from the County, members decided dog parks should remain closed in an effort to keep groups from congregating and keeping trailheads from getting congested.

Main Street Patios

Mayor Stolzmann noted many people have suggested when restaurants can reopen that tables could be placed in the street to give greater spacing.

Members agreed with the staff recommendation to waive the fee for the Main Street Patios this year. Other ideas for the summer will have to be considered as we have more information.

July 4th

Mayor Stolzmann stated it seems hard to imagine how we could do anything that would not encourage gathering if we have fireworks. She suggested perhaps the City can do something in December, but for now July 4th cannot proceed as planned.

Members agreed with the staff recommendation that the event be cancelled this year. If other options become available those will be considered.

Other Areas

Councilmember Dickinson suggested the tennis courts might be able to be opened safely. Councilmember Lipton agreed.

Councilmember Lipton would like the City to find the ways to open up spaces safely. Councilmember Fahey agreed.

Mayor Pro Tem Maloney asked when we would have more information on beginning in-person public hearings again. City Manager Balser stated BCPH is expected to give guidance on this soon. The considerations will need to include the size of a gathering, social distancing, and masking.

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION/ACTION – CITY COUNCIL ADVANCED AGENDA AND MEETING SCHEDULE

Clerk Muth stated the advanced agenda now includes some long meetings in August to address land use issues. She noted the schedule is dependent on when quasi-judicial matters can be heard by the Council. She stated the previously approved Council meeting break that runs from mid-June to early July does limit meeting options and the Council may want to reconsider that vacation.

Following discussion, Mayor Stolzmann moved to return to a normal meeting schedule but have no meetings on June 30 and July 7. The July schedule will be regular meetings on July 14 and 28 and a study session on July 21. Councilmember Dickinson seconded the motion. All in favor.

Members discussed the advanced agenda.

Mayor Stolzmann stated area mayors are discussing requiring masks in our communities. She is suggesting staff bring an emergency ordinance requiring masks to the May 5 meeting. Members agreed staff should bring an ordinance for Council consideration.

Councilmember Fahey asked the Council to consider a 2020 ballot issue for a plastic bag tax.

Councilmember Lipton noted the local flight schools opened up this week and it has created a noticeable increase in air

ADJOURN

Members adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Ashley Stolzmann, Mayor

Meredyth Muth, City Clerk